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—THOMAS JEFFERSON.

# BULLETIN

of the  
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Medical  
Society

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— Amer. Journal Diseases of Children — 1932, Vol. 43, p. 62.

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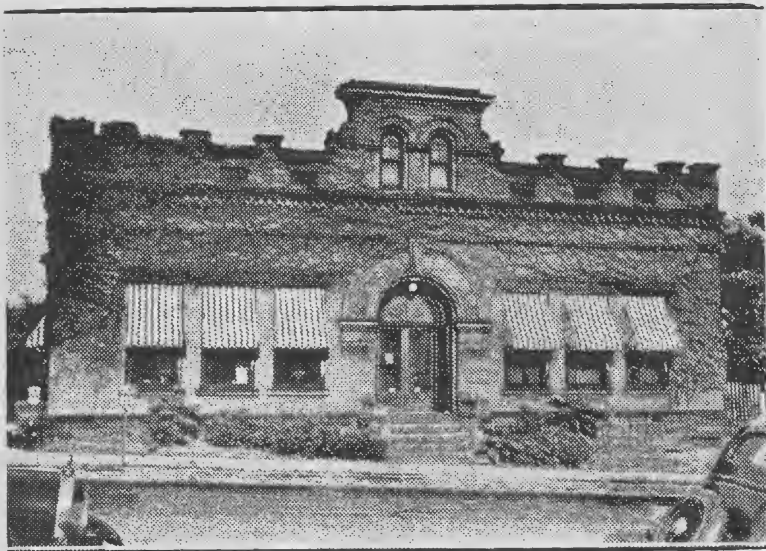
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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The Ohio State Medical Association's annual meeting in May, 1940, was well attended. Dr. Wm. Skipp was inducted as its president for the ensuing year. The honor that is his has been well earned through a great deal of personal effort and sacrifice.

The work of the organization must be done to make and to keep the profession effective. The value of the organization phase of a profession is far more important to its welfare than the majority of its members are willing to admit. One should think twice before opening up criticism too vigorously on those who spend the time and effort in fighting the battles for the majority. It is not the usual thing that the benefits derived from the successful conclusions on the issues for the profession as a whole will be enjoyed primarily by those who do the work. On the contrary, should the problems be controversial those who lead will likely lose, even though the profession as a whole may benefit.

The new president of the Ohio State Medical Association is at all times willing and ready to go to battle for the welfare of the profession as a whole. Our problems are safe under his generalship.

The Mahoning County Medical Society urges the organization of a Woman's Auxiliary as a unit to its state organization. This activity will be put into operation in the near future.

Among the objects of a Woman's Auxiliary to medical societies are the coöperation with the medical fraternity in the protection of public health, the promotion of health education, the assistance in entertainments whenever possible, the promotion of good fellowship among physician's families and other aims and purposes of the medical society. The possibilities associated with the coöperation of doctors' wives can be of inestimable value. The field is large and we urge all those who are eligible to acquire active interest.

R. B. POLING, M. D.,  
President.

# BULLETIN *of the* Mahoning County Medical Society

J U N E

1 9 4 0

## Editorials---

### Dr. Firor's Address

It is not often that a speaker really says anything new or even presents old facts in a new fresh light.

Opinions may differ as to the "Spot" originality of material in Dr. Warfield M. Firor's address before the Rotary Club on April 24th. Certainly nobody can question his freshness of expression nor the soundness of his argument.

It is too bad that a much larger audience could not get into the dining room to hear him. To offset this to some extent, we print the address in full elsewhere in this issue.

### Youth: We Salute You!

The Interns' program, delivered before the Society, Tuesday, May 21, justly receives high acclaim. The young men, Drs. Hodgins, Belinky, Fisher, and Webb, from St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the Youngstown Hospital Association, deserve praise for painstaking preparation and successful presentation of their subjects.

Such excellence speaks volumes, not alone for the sincere scholarship of the participants. Back of that, worthy and essential as it is, one must remember lies opportunity. Opportunity made available by able and devoted medical teachers, both in their medical schools and in the hospitals where they now continue their preparation. Opportunity, also, which is a blessed dispensation to student and teacher equally, to live and work and aspire to excellence.

These are possible today in such lavish degree only in our beloved United States of America. In this sweet land of liberty all of us, old

and young alike, are needed, and by patient perseverance we shall find the place where each may happily serve.

Youth, we who are older salute you!

### RESOLUTION PASSED BY THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

A resolution passed by the Industrial Commission April 1, 1940, is as follows:

"In cases of urgent necessity, a registered nurse or registered nurses may be employed for not to exceed seven days. The fee for such special nursing service shall be \$5.00 for an eight-hour day, and \$6.00 for a ten to twelve hour day, including board. Written authority must be obtained in advance for such nursing service in excess of the initial seven-day period; and, unless it is specifically authorized in addition, no further fees for nursing service will be paid."

We further wish to state that no bills will be approved for more than twelve hours continuous service by the same nurse.

If the claim has not yet been allowed, this authorization will depend upon the eventual allowance of the claim. It is necessary that the physician have the above written authorization if the nurses are to be paid in the future.

SIDNEY McCURDY, M. D.,  
Supervisor Medical Section  
Workmen's Compensation  
The Industrial Commission of Ohio.

This will authorize the employment of professional registered nurses.

If special nursing service is necessary beyond the time mentioned above, further authority must be obtained prior to the expiration of this period.

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## DR. FIROR'S ROTARY ADDRESS

By WARFIELD M. FIROR, M. D.  
Baltimore, Md.

Gentlemen:

I deeply appreciate the invitation to be here today and to address you on the subject of "The Responsibility of the Medical Profession to the Public." It is not my intention to appeal to your vanity with flattering remarks, or to your humor by telling you amusing stories; but it is my intention to appeal to your intelligence and your sound common sense. I shall count this opportunity as wasted if I fail to stimulate everyone here to think clearly on this very important subject.

Is it not desirable for us, before considering the responsibilities of the medical profession, to look into and to establish a definition of the term "medicine"? Can we not say that medicine is an art built on two great foundations? One of these foundations is knowledge that has been accumulated from experience. We call it empirical knowledge. It has been found that an extract of foxglove is good for dropsy; hence, Digitalis for heart disease. Centuries ago someone found that an extract from the bark of a tree cured chills and fever; hence, quinine for malaria. Until a hundred years ago practically all medical practice was based on empirical knowledge. A striking example of the ineffectiveness of this type of medicine is revealed by the experience which the British have had in India. Some years ago the British sent a group of chemists and pharmacologists to India to investigate carefully the many hundred remedies which have been handed down from time immemorial in the Ayur-vedic system. It is interesting to learn that millions of people for several centuries had been treated by Ayur-vedic medicine, but the British commission found only one remedy in the several hundred that they investigated which had real

value for the condition for which it was prescribed.

The second foundation on which the art of medicine rests is scientific knowledge, and I submit to you the proposal that the primary responsibility of the medical profession is to broaden constantly this base at the expense of empirical knowledge. A most instructive example of the effectiveness of scientific medicine was brought to my attention yesterday as I was leaving the Johns Hopkins Hospital. It just happened that on Saturday morning the head of the nose and throat service showed me an x-ray film of a patient who had come from the south. This poor man had had headaches, dizziness, fever, and pain in the mastoid region for weeks. On three occasions in as many months his mastoid bone had been opened. The film which I looked at showed that the infection had traveled inward and had destroyed the very apex of this bone, lying close to the base of the brain. To cure the patient it was necessary to drill a small, deep opening skirting along the coverings of the brain. This was done on Saturday morning. On Sunday noon the patient, free from headaches with a normal temperature, was eating his dinner. During the afternoon, however, his temperature rose rapidly, he became drowsy and stuporous, a violent headache occurred, and by six o'clock in the afternoon the man's temperature was almost 106° and he was comatose. A doctor trained in the empirical school would have made the correct diagnosis of inflammation of the brain, or meningitis as we call it. He would have prescribed drugs to reduce the fever and opiates to alleviate the pain. Our intern, trained in scientific medicine, did a lumbar puncture and drew off the fluid around the spinal cord. It was as thick as pus from a boil. With-

in an hour the germ causing this infection was identified, and within two hours the specific type of pneumococcus was known. Immediately the man was given three hundred thousand units of rabbit's serum for this particular germ and an adequate amount of a new chemical agent called sulfapyridine. In the first fifty years of the Johns Hopkins Hospital not a single patient with pneumococcus meningitis ever recovered, and we have had well over a hundred patients; in fact, not until the last year have any patients with this disease recovered. Just before I left the hospital on Monday afternoon the doctor in charge of this particular patient told me that his temperature was normal, his pulse almost so, and he was asking for food and fluids. His recovery was virtually complete. This is not a miracle; it is simply an example of scientific medicine in operation. Obviously, therefore, the primary responsibility of the medical profession is to see that our medicine becomes increasingly scientific and decreasingly empirical.

The third and equally fundamental responsibility that rests upon us is to see that the poor practitioner, your family doctor, is kept informed of the rapidly advancing frontier of scientific investigation. It is immensely difficult for the conscientious practitioner whose time is at the public's disposal to keep up with what is going on; indeed, it is hard for the specialist to keep abreast of the times in his own specialty. How is this being done today? By two methods; first, by medical publications and journals. Unfortunately, most of these are so bulky and the articles so wordy that the average practitioner has barely time to read the conclusions. Seizing upon this condition, commercial firms distribute hundreds of thousands of copies of journals every month. These advertising journals contain excerpts and brief, terse summaries of the recent advances of medical knowledge. A recent survey showed that one-half

of the practising physicians of America gained their knowledge of scientific advances by relying upon the advertisements of the commercial firms. In the defense of these firms I must honestly say they abstract scientific articles in a very intelligent and often impartial manner. It is true that here and there they throw in a suggestion about their particular product, but on the whole they are exceedingly fair. A second and much more practical way of keeping the family doctor abreast of the times is by sessions such as the one which is being held here today. You should be extremely proud of the Mahoning County Medical Society. It was the first society in Ohio to initiate a day of postgraduate instruction and for thirteen years has provided a splendid program. A week ago I happened to be in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on a consultation, and as I entered the hospital the surgeon said, "I understand you are to speak next Wednesday in Youngstown." The news of the meeting which is being held in this hotel today has spread for a radius of one hundred and fifty miles. Do you realize what it means for four hundred busy doctors to leave their practice and drive a long distance to stay here from nine in the morning until nine at night? This is one of the finest examples of the way the medical profession is trying to fulfill its second obligation to the public in keeping the family doctor posted and up to date.

The fourth responsibility that we have is to protect the public from nostrums and quacks. The Journal of the American Medical Association is ever alert to expose ineffective and injurious remedies which are offered to an unsuspecting public by suggestive advertisements. The Pure Food and Drug Act of the Federal Government is another effort in tending to protect you from worthless and positively harmful medicines. In a single hospital in North Carolina over four hundred and fifty patients

have been treated for bromide poisoning. Many of them were in the hospital for weeks and were incapacitated for months, all because an unscrupulous firm advertised over the radio a particular headache cure.

The requirements that are made before a man can practise medicine are steadily rising in this country. Every effort is being made by organized medicine to protect the public from ignorant and unprincipled doctors. I wish to tell you about an instance that came to my attention a few weeks ago. An exceedingly attractive but simple-minded woman noticed a painless lump in her breast. She consulted a doctor, who reassured her that as long as the lump was painless she had nothing to worry about. He had her come to him every week for almost two years for various applications and ointments. At the expiration of this time her cancer of the breast had spread to where it was no longer amenable to surgical removal. Pain in this disease is a symptom of death and not of cancer of the breast. Whether or not this particular doctor was acting through ignorance or malice, I cannot say; but it is the responsibility of the medical profession to protect the public from such practitioners.

Another very real responsibility that we have is to eliminate preventable disease. Great advances have been made and are being made in this field of activity. Thirty years ago the medical wards of the Johns Hopkins Hospital were reserved every fall for patients with typhoid fever and malaria. A patient had to have either one or the other to be admitted. Experience had taught the authorities of the hospital that the number of people suffering from these two diseases each autumn in the city of Baltimore was so great that they simply had to reserve the medical beds for them. After adequate Public Health legislation in the city and a decent milk ordinance, the number of cases of typhoid fever and malaria dwindled

so that in 1921, during my fourth year in medical school, the professors had great difficulty in securing a patient with typhoid fever to show in clinic. Who can estimate the thousands of lives that can be saved by the introduction of diphtheria toxoid? In Baltimore city last year of eight children who had diphtheria only one died. This was a relatively bad record, however, because in the two preceding years there had not been a single death. Tonight I shall tell the four hundred doctors who have come here of a recent method of preventing lockjaw. The second means at our disposal for eliminating preventable disease is by educating the public. The radio is of inestimable value in doing this. I had a very grave realization of this two years ago when a woman whom I had known for sometime told me that her husband was being treated on the medical service at Johns Hopkins. When I inquired what was the trouble, she told me that she had been listening to a broadcast and the commentator described the early symptoms of general paresis so clearly that she realized her husband must have syphilis of the brain. She took him immediately to the family doctor who confirmed this diagnosis. The man was given adequate treatment and today is back at work. I could multiply instances like this, but one suffices. In connection with educating the public, it is necessary for us to realize that this must be done with great intelligence. The medical profession must not scare the public, nor should the radio be used for popularizing untried and unsafe remedies.

The next responsibility of our profession which I shall discuss is the one that you probably expected me to give a great deal of time to; namely, the provision of adequate medical care for the needy. This is our responsibility, and there is not a doctor in these United States of America who has not given time, thought, and affection generously to poor patients.

One cannot measure in monetary terms the value of this service that has been rendered. The poor in this country enjoy better Public Health conditions and better medical care than the poor in any country in the world at any time of its history. The reason that the subject has received so much publicity recently is because certain selfish politicians have realized that free medical care is a marvelous political football. What stronger appeal can they make to the unthinking masses than that their party is going to provide the poor with excellent medical care free of charge? Needless to say, the quality of medical service is bound to fall when the doctors become servants of unscrupulous politicians. Why should we in America simulate Russia? Do we care to have state medicine forced upon us because certain advisers in Washington who are friendly to the communistic experiment would like to see it tried here? By what authorities do the leaders in Washington feel that we are obligated to follow the Russian experiment? American medicine has prospered marvelously in the past without any political control, and the surest way to handicap and shackle our medical institutions and medical practitioners is by letting the politicians institute state medicine. You are the ones who are going to suffer if this happens, and I tell you in all earnestness that there is a responsibility that rests squarely upon your shoulders. It is only enlightened selfishness for you to prevent these parasites of society—these politicians—from instituting state medicine.

The final responsibility that I wish to point out and to accept will surprise you greatly. I am sure that none of you can anticipate what I am about to say. You will recall that in my opening remarks I drew attention to the fact that medicine is an art resting upon a dual foundation—empirical knowledge and scientific knowledge. In our effort to become in-

creasingly scientific, we have been forced to specialize. Young graduates have been tempted to devote all their energies to a single, narrow branch of medicine. This has resulted in rapid and splendid advances in almost every specialty of medicine, but inevitably it has brought about a loss of appreciation of the art of medicine. The old family doctor with his empirical knowledge rendered an immense service as father confessor and family adviser. Modern scientific medicine has lost some of this function, and I tell you in all sincerity that the great responsibility of the medical profession today is to regain its sense of proportion. Some years ago I talked to an exceedingly wealthy and well-known banker in this country. If I mentioned his name everyone of you would immediately know him. He told me rather abruptly that the only two things he tried to teach his children were, first, self-control, and secondly, a sense of proportion. The very real obligation of the medical profession today is to regain its sense of proportion between the art of medicine and scientific knowledge. Can we find any more brilliant example of this truth than in the story of the Great Physician who, when a paralytic was brought to him, said, "Man, thy sins be forgiven." This patient was worried, he was mentally ill, and he was sick of heart because of a guilty conscience. It was far more important to give him peace of mind and a sense of well-being than merely to say, "Take up thy bed and walk."

In concluding, then, I wish to emphasize the fact that the medical profession has an obligation to regain its sense of proportion—to treat the patient as well as the disease. In our enthusiasm for scientific knowledge we must not lose sight of the fact that we are treating human beings, for there is no scientific substitute for the milk of human kindness.

April 24, 1940.

*June*



## THE A. M. A.

### "Its Work and Mechanism of Operation"

By CLAUDE B. NORRIS, M. D.

After attending, as a delegate, my first session of the House of Delegates of the A. M. A., in May of last year, I came home and in the June *Bulletin* stuck my neck out. I wrote a short article, rather flippant and a little irreverent, on the doings of the "Big Shots." Someone has said something to the effect that the man is lucky who never wrote a book. The territory covered needn't be that wide.

The A. M. A. meets in New York, June 10th to 14th. This *Bulletin* will reach you during that time. Perhaps it will be interesting to review, not in detail but discursively, this year's work. Some statements may need revision later, and, the "impressions" set out in the Article of last June may call for correction, and special comment on specific actions in New York may be appropriate.

At this time, complying belatedly with Dr. Fishbein's request of last June, explanation of the work and mechanism of operation of the A. M. A. will be attempted.

#### This Year's Work

A. M. A. membership gained 3171 this year, adding up to 115,381: Fellows upped 1,700 to 71,168: total number of physicians (exclusive of 3,152 Army Medical Officers), 173,879.

Gross income last year was \$1,798,-766.82. Of this, advertising space brought in \$908,750.58. The A. M. A. Journal grossed \$1,700,853.99, cost \$994,030.97, made net \$706,-823.02. Pretty tidy! Most income items exceed the previous year.

The special journals didn't do so well—in fact only one, the Archives of Ophthalmology, was produced without loss, the total net loss being \$29,125.49.

The Quarterly Cumulative Index was an expensive necessity. That child took \$39,151.66 away from us, but at that the loss was less than the \$43,034.71 in 1938.

Hygeia gained 7588 in circulation, but slipped \$2,000.00 in advertising income, and ended up by costing \$7,669.85 more than income.

During 1939, 2993 library packages and 12,714 periodicals went out, 6,000 requests for bibliographical aid were satisfied, and employes used more than 6,000 books and magazines.

Extremely important is the work constantly carried on by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry. This body has functioned with steadily widening usefulness for 35 years. Its chairman, Dr. Torald Sollmann of Western Reserve Medical School, and Dr. R. A. Hatcher of Cornell University Medical College, have served continuously from the beginning. This body has fearlessly put the finger on fraud and deception in the exploitation of nostrums, has pulled hard for rationalism in therapeutics, and has compelled those who seek "Council-Approved" labels to produce scientific evidence to back their claims. But now they do more.

They are coöperating with the Food and Drug Administration to see that the purposes of the law are realized. They publish new and non-official remedies, 50,000 copies having been sold in 1939: Epitome of the U. S. P. and N. F., 3500 copies sold in 1939: useful drugs, 7360 copies sold in 1939: A. M. A. Interns' Manual, sold 2250 in 1939. The Council makes timely reports on therapeutic products, as e.g., sulfanilamide and its various derivatives, the use of barbital and its derivatives, the first report on which was published in the Journal, April 8, 1939.

(Continued on Page 178)

## **An Invitation**

The members of the Mahoning County Medical Society are  
cordially invited to attend a joint meeting of the

**CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH EAR, NOSE AND  
THROAT SOCIETIES**

to be held

**July 10th, Youngstown Country Club**

The guest speaker Dr. French K. Hansel, Ass't Professor  
of Medicine of Washington University, St. Louis, Mo., is one  
of the world's outstanding authorities on Allergy.

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## **Golf Meet**

**Wednesday, July 24th**

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**SOUTHERN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB**

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**Golf 1:30**

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**Dinner 6:30**

# **Regular Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday, June 18th, 1940**

**YOUNGSTOWN CLUB**

**8:30**

---

**Guest Speaker**

**R. H. Freyberg, M. D.**

**Assistant Professor in Charge of  
Rackham Arthritis Research Unit of University of Michigan**

**Subject**

**Critical Appraisal of Some Adjuncts in the  
Treatment of Chronic Arthritis**

## THE A. M. A.

### "Its Work and Mechanism of Operation"

(Continued from Page 175)

The Council on Physical Therapy investigates and reports on apparatus and methods, such, this year, as hearing aids. The Council published a handbook, and it also, prepared educational articles which were printed in the Journal. They made 5 grants in aid of research, studied means for eliminating radio interference, studied x-ray dosages in coöperation with the National Bureau of Standards, and sponsored radio talks, lectures, and picture films.

The Council on Industrial health was active in promoting an educational program, this taking such direction as participation in an Annual Congress on Industrial Health, in the publication of a special Industrial Health Number of the Journal of the A. M. A., the preparation of special articles on medicine in industry and on occupational diseases, and the presentation of excellent exhibits on these problems. They have led in establishing 34 State Medical Committees on industrial health; in setting up medical advisory staffs to workmen's compensation authorities; and have enlisted the active participation of industrial physicians in defining and adapting industrial medical services.

As would be expected, the Bureau of Medical Economics was busy the past year. They prepared the factual data used at hearings on the Wagner Bill. They issued 5 volumes and revised an old one, dealing with organized payments for medical services, the effects of social security legislation, sickness insurance, state medicine, costs of medical care, experimental service plans, group hospitalization, collection agencies, and fee schedules.

So much for the work, except to repeat that only hints of the hundreds of important things done could possibly be mentioned. Now, briefly, let

us look at the mechanism of operation.

### How the A. M. A. Ticks

The A. M. A. is a "federacy" of its "constituent" associations: viz., the State and Territorial Associations. "Component" Societies are the County Societies chartered by "Constituent" (i.e. State) Associations. So we speak of "Constituent" Associations, referring to State Associations and of "Component," or County, Societies.

The general officers are President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Speaker, Vice Speaker, and 9 Trustees. The Trustees are elected in rotation for 5-year terms, the others for 1 year.

You are a "Member" of the A. M. A. by virtue of County and State affiliation; but a "fellow" meets some special requirements, mostly becomes a subscriber to the J. A. M. A. or one of the special publications. "Fellows" only, constitute the Scientific Assembly and the House of Delegates. These bodies meet annually.

The House of Delegates is made up of delegates elected by constituent associations, by scientific sections, and delegates from the medical departments of the Army, the Navy, and the Public Health Service. The Trustees, ex-presidents, and members of the Councils of the A. M. A., are ex-officio and, as such, are non-voting members of the House of Delegates. The total voting membership is 175, of whom 50 or more constitute a quorum.

The House of Delegates elects the officers and trustees, but the trustees must nominate the Treasurer. They elect the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award from a list of not more than 3 fellows nominated by the Trustees, from a list of 5 fellows or less, recommended by the Committee on distinguished service awards. The delegates approve committee appointees unless otherwise provided.

The "Standing Committees" are 3:

*June*

(1) the Judicial Council, (2) Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, and (3) Council on Scientific Assembly. The first and third are nominated by the President and elected by the Delegates: the second is nominated by the Trustees, three candidates being nominated for each place, and elected by the Delegates. The Delegates elect Affiliate, Honorary and Associate Fellows, and they may expel a member of the A. M. A. on recommendation of the Judicial Council.

There are 9 "Reference Committees," of the House, too many to name. They consist usually of 5 members each, and the speaker names the committee membership and chairmen. They expedite the work of the House. The speaker may appoint special committees, "as may be deemed expedient by the House of Delegates."

#### **The Board of Trustees**

The real governing body of the A. M. A. is the Board of Trustees. They supervise all activities, appoint the Councils, except the 3 of the House of Delegates. They set up the bureaus, and may create special committees; supervise the administrative work, and provide audits. The extent of their duties and the weight of their responsibilities are indicated to a small extent in the first phase of this paper.

Added to these is the formulation and enunciation of policies of great moment to the profession. These call for full discussion, and decisions are reached after most careful study in the light of precedent, present feasibility, and their possible bearing upon future contingencies. One is amazed at the maze of detail over which that body exercises control. They are the Board of Directors of a giant corporation, organized for the scientific advancement and for the protection of the profession and the public. They are our real spokesmen, and any who are heard must reflect their

considered conclusions. Much of their work is carried on by Committees, Bureaus and Councils of the Board of Trustees. But the Board must allot the needed funds, see that the allotted amounts are not exceeded, and that expenditures are used, both legally and without waste.

#### **Lots of Wheels**

The machinery is very complicated, and is not easy to understand. The 3 standing Committees or Councils of the House of Delegates may appoint sub-Committees. The Trustees may set up Councils, bureaus, and special committees. Apparently sub-committees may appoint sub-committees, and so on. But the more one studies it the more one admires the smooth functioning of the whole works.

No accounting of the story would be complete therefore, without at least a reference to the services of the headquarters officers, Secretary-General Manager, Olin West, the Treasurer, Herman L. Cretschmer, and Editor, Morris Fishbein. Quantitatively, their work is mountainous; qualitatively it is as efficient as a perfectly coordinated machine. These men are on the job day after day, year in and year out. Because of their approved efficiency they are retained in office. Consequently, it follows, that their influence is rightly very important.

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#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

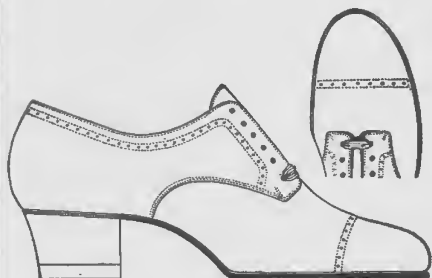
The Regular Council Meeting was held May 6, 1940, at the office of the Secretary.

The regular meeting was held May 21, 1940, at the Youngstown Club. Dr. P. T. Hodgkin, Dr. N. D. Belinky, Dr. Marion G. Fisher and Dr. Walter B. Webb participated in the Annual Intern's Contest.

Following the scientific program the Society passed a motion to place Dr. H. W. Weinberg on the Honorary Membership Roll.

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*Formerly Chief Physician, State Hospital for Insane, Norristown, Pa.*

## THE MEDICAL CRIER

A Page of Sidelights, News and Views in the Medical Field

● There is a nice problem of psychology involved in the matter of discussion of scientific papers. Active discussion following a good paper is highly desirable, yet members refrain largely through fear—fear of displaying ignorance or fear of seeming to be forward or pushing. As a result, many a speaker who has come a long way to address the Society sits down amid a silence broken only by a few words of thanks from the chairman. He fails to get any audience reaction. Last February Council considered the matter and suggested that the President request two or more members to be prepared to discuss papers at each meeting. It seems a good idea to have ice breakers prepared with the hope that others will feel more free to join in. We have well trained men in the Society perfectly competent to discuss any subject presented and they should do so without hesitation. The speakers will appreciate it and the audience will profit.

In most cases where consultation is called for, the patient is not doing well. There is a question of diagnosis or a question of treatment where help is needed. When the patient is not doing well the attending physician is often on the spot. The anxious family is beginning to doubt whether or not he knows best and is doing it. He may feel that the consultation is for his protection. The consultant may feel that it is for his enhancement. Both are wrong. It is for the patient's benefit and that is the thing which should never be forgotten. The rules of medical ethics governing the relationship of doctors in consultation were laid down with that one idea in mind. Laymen know little about medical ethics and consider them a complicated, antiquated system used by doctors to confuse the public. They think that when doctors get mad at each other, the case will get some real attention. Just the

opposite is true. Doctors will serve their patients better by adhering strictly to the Code of Ethics and by being "frank and candid with the patient and his family."

Consultants should not return to see a patient unless specifically asked to do so by the attending physician. They should be careful of remarks which the patient can interpret as being derogatory. When one doctor's professional reputation is hurt, the entire medical profession suffers with him. A consultant should not assume charge of the patient during the same illness unless asked to do so by the attending physician.

The doctor in charge should remember his duty to the consultant. He should be prepared to give a complete history of the case and a resumé of the treatment. When sending a patient to a specialist's office he should send a letter containing the above details and avoid wasting a busy man's time. Unless he does so he should not complain if he does not receive a prompt report. He should make conditions favorable for a satisfactory examination and withhold no information.

Patients can have any consultant they wish, or change doctors during an illness in an ethical manner. There should be a rule requiring patients and their families to be "frank and candid with the doctor." When the family wishes to change, the attending physician with the best possible grace should call the other doctor and turn the case over with the same procedure used when services are changed on the hospital rotating staff. Such can be done without ill feeling and without loss of prestige. When a person through ignorance or deceit tries to bring in a doctor to check up secretly on another's case, the doctor protects himself and does the entire medical profession a service by refusing absolutely to be a party to any unethical practice.

—J. L. F.

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## SOCIETY HONORS DR. SKIPP

On Wednesday evening, May 8, a jolly crowd assembled at the Youngstown Club to honor Dr. William Skipp, who recently assumed office as President of the Ohio State Medical Association.

Dr. Skipp is the second State President from our Society. This distinction was rather tardy, his predecessor from Mahoning County having served just 50 years ago.

Dr. Robert B. Poling, President of our Society, presided, and introduced Dr. James L. Fisher, the Toastmaster. Dr. Poling called Dr. Fisher, "The inimitable."

Here's where formalities ceased and fun broke out like a rash. General speakers were called upon and each of these told stories about Dr. Skipp, and on him, some of which they said were true, but the speaker in each instance had something in his cheek—probably his tongue.

They referred to "Bill" as a perfect human dynamo, who never got tired. Two or three illustrative stories were *apropos* but the one about the corn bread seemed to stand on its own—completely.

Dr. D. W. Hoge, Springfield, councilor of the 2nd district, spoke briefly of Dr. Skipp's energy and devotion to his work as State Councilor. Dr. Hoge's presence was much enjoyed and everyone regretted that he had to leave early.

Dr. R. L. Rutledge, Alliance, successor to Dr. Skipp as Councilor of our own 6th District, spoke in high praise of Dr. Skipp's work and of the work of the Mahoning County Medical Society. He commended Dr. Skipp's tireless efforts as Councilor.

Dr. George F. Swan, Cambridge, Councilor of the 8th District, spoke of the confidence the State has come to feel in Dr. Skipp's loyalty and his devoted spirit in service to medicine.

Several of Dr. Skipp's associates

in Medical School and in hospital service gave guarded accounts of experience with him in early years.

Dr. Edward Feiman, Canton, was a fellow student at Ohio State. He hinted at several things that he knew "on" Bill, but rather skillfully avoided real revelations. A case of Stone-throwing, glass-house business possibly. But he did say that Dr. Skipp in those days was a determined, persistent worker.

Dr. Skipp interned at the South Side Unit (then the only Unit) of the Youngstown Hospital. This was in 1918, while many local doctors were away in Europe saving democracy. With him then were Dr. Paul Fuzy, Dr. James L. Fisher, and the late Dr. J. A. Walker.

Dr. Fuzy told about the vast amount of work required to be done in those days, and of Dr. Skipp's almost limitless capacity for doing it. Dr. Fuzy recounted a "fight" (verbal) with Dr. Skipp, their juvenile unwillingness to speak for two weeks—and the fact that neither knew what the fuss was about. They finally came face to face with each other, had it out and were friends. They differ now, plenty, but they do so as friends.

The Toastmaster, Dr. Fisher, told of Dr. Skipp's interest in goitre surgery, of how according to the latter, Dr. Elsaesser "very much liked" to have him as his first assistant, and of his request that he be allowed to do all that work for Dr. Elsaesser. The others, Fisher, Fuzy, and Walker, agreed.

Dr. Elsaesser was A. W. O. L. when called upon to speak. But duty called him elsewhere, and he had departed. (Dr. Elsaesser is rated as one of our outstanding public speakers—"like a clam!"). His continued friendship after such long association is eloquent testimony of his high re-

(Continued on Page 187)

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## DR. SKIPP'S ADDRESS

(Delivered at the Mahoning County Medical Society's Dinner in his honor, May 8, 1940)

A friend is one who sees no wrong, hears no wrong and no matter what you do or say is still your friend. You have seen and heard me when things were not so good, but still I am your friend and you are mine.

You have gathered here tonight to do me honor, an honor which is not wholly mine, but I am a symbol of a task performed by all of you. I am honored but the honor is yours. This honor belongs to the Mahoning County Medical Society and the untiring work and thought of all of you.

The City of Youngstown and Mahoning County are honored and fortunate in having a Medical Society so active, and men of so much thought and earnestness to build such an organization. Our organization is outstanding in this State and is known in all parts of our Country for its medical teachings and untiring and devoted service to its members and the public whom its members serve.

This organization is somewhat selfish in that its primary interest is its members: to see that they are properly informed in all medical, financial, and political matters that pertain to their well-being. It holds high the standards of ethics of our profession. It also protects its members from outside transgression. It teaches brotherly love and the Golden Rule among its members. It teaches

and insists that ours is a noble profession and that every member is to give aid to the sufferings of the people of our community; that it is our sacred duty to protect the health of all the people of this community regardless of sect, color or creed; that adequate medical care shall be given to all regardless of the ability of these people to pay for this service.

It has been demonstrated through its cooperation with all existing agencies, both political and social, that it is an organization for the good of the community and that it will not permit inroads on its rights, either as a whole or in part, by any outside force, political or otherwise.

It is not in politics. It has no political affiliations, but will take up arms against any person or organization that is opposed to the public health or attempts to break down the established laws of public health.

It has always promoted and will continue to foster all programs that are for the improvement of the public health.

It is not oppressive and will not tolerate oppression, but it has a tremendous force if opposed and its weight must be considered by all those who would trample it under foot. It is not subservient to groups of its own members, but is the governing body in all things pertaining to the practice of medicine.

The importance of the Mahoning



Dr. Wm. M. Skipp



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County Medical Society is not just by chance. It came about by hard work of all of its members. It first moved from its dingy rooms in a cellar to bright and cheery surroundings to hold its meetings, so that the attendance increased from 10 to 600. Its membership began to work together so that coöperation was the watchword. Petty jealousies were forgotten. An annual Postgraduate Day was promoted and still continues, which is known over the entire State and all adjoining States.

Active men were induced to work for their organization and were promoted to higher and better positions in the Society by the membership, so that team work at last prevailed. Honors were conferred upon individual members because of work well performed for the Society, not just to honor someone.

The monthly publication of the Society, our *Bulletin*, has been a means of general information to all, it being one of the first three of its kind in this Country. Through its pages of general information it brought our membership into a common bond, and still holds them.

The officers of the Society are elected for their energy and their willingness to serve. To this end the Committee chairmen are also appointed: work and work hard, being impressed upon all.

There are many other activities, which I will not recall to your minds, as you know of them as well as I do. But one of importance is the organization of relief in 1933. The Society, under the leadership of its committee, set up a program, which was accepted by the Federal Administration, entirely under our control. This program worked 100% and is still in operation with the County Relief Organization.

The Mahoning County Medical Society is a component part of the Ohio State Medical Association,

which in turn is a component part of the National Organization. The State organization does not dictate any policy of its County Societies, but at all times is a coöordinator and attempts to give aid to the County units.

The Mahoning County Medical Society through its progressiveness and willingness to do a job, has been recognized by our State Association in many ways. Many of our members have been given positions of trust and distinction because of their training and willingness to work. They have been and are members of important committees, being chairmen of some. They are given assignments as scientific speakers at the Annual Meetings and Postgraduate Courses of the State. In the House of Delegates, our Delegates are recognized as progressive thinkers and workers.

For these and many other reasons that we have not time to numerate tonight, I feel that the Mahoning County Medical Society has done a real job and is to be congratulated therefore, and I trust that it will continue to progress in the years to come as it has in the years past.

---

### Society Honors Dr. Skipp

(Continued from Page 183)

gard for Dr. Skipp's personality and work.

Dr. O. J. Walker spoke on the ease with which Dr. Skipp was elected President of the State Association. "His good work as Councilor made him a push over for President," said Dr. Walker.

The "commonality" — that's the most of us — we, too, enjoyed this opportunity to give our friend a boost on his way, to see the County Society thus honored, and to sit in and maybe absorb some of the exaltation of the occasion.

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## NEWS and VIEWS

Dr. David Smeltzer addressed the Mothers' Club of Woodrow Wilson High School, on May 8th. Dr. Smeltzer's subject dealt with "Hereditry and Environment; Nervous and Mental Conditions in Early Youth."

Dr. John Keyes and Dr. William Hatcher have an article on "The Interpretation of Visible Pulsation in the Retinal Arteries" in the May 25 issue of the Journal of the A. M. A.

Dr. William F. Hatcher delivered an address on "Ophthalmoscopic Interpretation of Retinal Vascular Disease" before the Eye, Ear, Nose, and Throat Section, of the Ohio State Medical Society, at the annual meeting in Cincinnati.

Dr. and Mrs. F. W. McNamara spent a week this month, as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hannan, Norfolk, Va.

Dr. and Mrs. J. N. McCann and Dr. A. S. Parker, spent some time in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where Dr. McCann and Dr. Parker studied under Dr. Issacs.

Dr. Raymond Edmond Whelan, has announced the marriage of his daughter Margaret Mary, to Mr. Robert James Kirk. The wedding took place at St. Columba's Church, June 5th, 9:30 A. M.

Dr. William M. Skipp spoke Monday, May 20th, on the Federation Hour, WKBN, at 4:30 P. M. His subject was "The Relation of the Medical Profession to the Public."

Dr. and Mrs. F. F. Piercy, entertained 100 guests for the pleasure of their son and his charming bride, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Piercy, May 17th, 1940.

Dr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Hatcher and children Peter and Suzanne visited with Dr. Hatcher's family in Virginia and then to Connecticut the guest of Mrs. Hatcher's parents.

James L. Fisher, Jr., student at

Duke University, Durham, N. C., is home for his summer vacation.

The annual banquet of the Doctor's Secretaries Organization, will be held at the Youngstown Club, June 13th. On the committee are Miss Elizabeth Walker, Mrs. Harold Gabriel, Mrs. Haydn Brown, and Miss Hazel Wolf.

Dr. and Mrs. S. S. Badal, Lowellville, had as their guests the week of May 28th, their sons and wives Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Badal, Boston, and Dr. and Mrs. James Badal, Cleveland, Ohio.

Dr. and Mrs. W. E. Ranz have arrived home from San Juan, Texas, where they have been since October.

Dr. and Mrs. J. Clair Vance and sons Jack and Dick, Lowellville, have returned from several weeks at Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Dr. and Mrs. Jules G. Richards, Struthers, announce the engagement of their daughter Jean Elizabeth to Dr. Barclay Miller Brandmiller. The wedding is to take place in the early fall. Dr. Brandmiller is associated with Dr. Howard C. Miller.

The Mahoning County Medical Society members in attendance at the State Association meeting in Cincinnati were:

J. A. Altdoerffer, W. K. Allsop, E. C. Baker, G. E. DeCicco, Armin Elsaesser, W. H. Evans, Paul J. Fuzy, Joseph C. Hall, J. P. Harvey, Wm. F. Hatcher, S. J. Klatman, Geo. M. McKelvey, R. H. Middleton, D. E. Montgomery, R. R. Morall, Gordon G. Nelson, Dean Nesbit, John Noll, Claude B. Norris, R. B. Poling, Edward J. Reilly, John A. Rogers, Clarence W. Sears, Wm. M. Skipp, Ivan C. Smith, Walter K. Stewart, E. R. Thomas, Walter J. Tims, C. C. Wales, O. J. Walker, Wm. A. Welsh, E. J. Wenaas, Samuel R. Zoss.

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Dr. E. E. Kirkwood, Dr. Marguerite Stemmerman and Mr. Andrew O. Fleming, attended the 36th Annual Meeting of the National Tuberculosis Association, June 3-6, at Cleveland.

## NURSING NOTES

By RUTH NEILSON, R. N.

Thirty-four student nurses were graduated from the Youngstown Hospital School of Nursing, Thursday, May 9, during an impressive ceremony at the Stambaugh Auditorium. Dr. Kenneth Brown, President of Hiram College, gave the address to the graduating class. Diplomas were awarded by Mr. John Tod, President of the Board of Trustees. Miss Dorothy Windley, Director of the School, presented the school pin to the graduates. Following, a reception and dance were held in the ball room.

In keeping with commencement activities of the Youngstown Hospital School of Nursing, members of the graduating class were entertained at a tea given by the Women's Board at the Stambaugh Nurses' Home, Tuesday afternoon, May 7. Mrs. A. E. Brant presented the Brant scholarships to Miss Dorothy Llewellyn and Miss Ann Vass. Mrs. Louis McDonald awarded the scholarships given by the Women's Board to the Misses Olive Dight, Eleanor McKnight and Mary Slausenhaupt.

The American Nurses' Association and the National Organization for Public Health Nursing, met in Philadelphia May 13 to 17. A good representation of nurses from this district attended and brought back ideas which they hope may be of some assistance to them now that they have returned home to the daily routine of nursing.

Miss Bess Condryn, President of the Nurses' Official Registry, reports that for the past 4 months the private duty nurses have been kept very busy.

In connection with the Educational Program that has been inaugurated and successfully carried out as part of the activities of the Nurses' Official Registry this winter, the concluding meeting of the season was held at the Stewart Class Room, South Side Unit, Youngstown Hospital, where more than seventy members heard Dr. Neidus discuss "Diseases of the Heart."

There is a drive to increase the number of nurses enrolled in the American Red Cross Nursing Service throughout the United States and this district should meet its quota. Registered Nurses should feel honored to be able to join this great organization as the requirements are not easy to meet. Nurses who wish to become members of the American Red Cross Nursing Service may get information and registration blanks at the Nursing School Office of any hospital in this district or contact Miss Emma Modeland, R. N., at the V. N. A., Youngstown, Ohio.

Miss Golda Kilpatrick, Youngstown, and Miss Winifred Campbell, Saginaw, Michigan, after attending the American Nurses' Association Convention in Philadelphia have taken a vacation trip through New England.

### Marriages

Helen Timlin, R. N., to Henry Barnell on May 4.

Martha Morris, R. N., to Raymond Lupse, M. D. on May 15.

Kathleen Ferguson, class '32 St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing and night supervisor at this hospital for the past 5 years, was married May 14, to Victor Daubner who is an auditor at the Lake Shore Railroad Company.

### Births

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Fredericks (Evelyn Clement) a son, April 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Mulholland (Pauline Webb) a son, April 21.

Dr. and Mrs. John Noll (Elizabeth Brockway) a son, April 25.

Dr. and Mrs. Chester Lowendorf (Bessie Malkoff) a daughter, April 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Talley (Margaret Endres) a son, May 25.

### St. Elizabeth's Alumnae May Dance

St. Elizabeth's Hospital Alumnae Nurses held their May Dance at Squaw Creek Country Club, Saturday Evening, May 25th.

A large crowd attended. Dancing began about 9:30, music being furnished by Ruth Autenreith's Orchestra.

The Committee in charge were the Alumnae President, Miss Carmelita Knuff; Miss Stella Krispinsky, Chairman, with the following co-workers: Mary Lubanovic, Rose Kaluszky, Josephine Ready, Anne Knott, Eleanor Walsilko, Dorothy Burke, Ann Russ, Elma Kurfess, Mildred Keeling, Donna Sims, Mildred Megown, Adele Bevilacqua.

### Hospital Service

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